

Dr. Jane Henney  
Commissioner, U.S. FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Dr. Henney,

I urge you to ban the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in farm animal feed. The World Health Organization recommended ending the use in animal feed of all antibiotics used in human medicine, and well as closely related drugs. In an initial response, the use of four antibiotics in animal feed was banned throughout Europe last year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention opposes the use of fluoroquinolones for poultry.

Antibiotics in animal feed are partly used to promote weight gain in farm animals. Antibiotics shouldn't be used this way. Bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, and the overuse of these drugs creates more strains of anti-biotic resistant bacteria. Livestock companies shouldn't get more money by having heavier animals at the expense of antibiotics becoming ineffective.

I wouldn't want to eat poultry that has been fed antibiotics. Drugs aren't natural, and unnatural things fed to animals often cause problems with the animal's health. I don't want to eat meat that has antibiotics in it. Many other people don't want to, either.

I know the other purpose of feeding farm animal antibiotics is to make sure the animals don't get sick. This makes sense, because farmers wouldn't want disease to spread among their animals. However, if antibiotics continue to be used this way, it will get harder to find antibiotics that can kill bacteria. The bacteria will be resistant. It will cost the government a lot of money to develop new antibiotics. These new antibiotics might come from resources that are a valuable part of their natural environment. That environment might be damaged by the need for new antibiotics.

Sweden banned all non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture in 1986, and the country has evolved a highly successful system of meat production that does not depend on these drugs. The U.S. should study Sweden's method of livestock farming without the use of antibiotics. This will make meat more natural, and slow the increase of disease-resistant bacteria.

Sincerely,

Steve Gertsch  
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**Abstract**